



DØ note 5739-CONF

## Search for the Standard Model Higgs boson in the $t\bar{t}H \rightarrow t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$ channel

The DØ Collaboration  
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We present a search for the Standard Model Higgs boson produced in association with top anti-top quark pairs. This analysis considers samples of single-, double- and triple-tagged lepton+jets events with 4 and 5 or more jets in total collected with the DØ detector, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $2.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . Kinematical differences between  $t\bar{t}$  and  $t\bar{t}H$  events are exploited and limits are set on the  $t\bar{t}H \rightarrow t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  production cross section.

*Preliminary Results for Summer 2008 Conferences*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The large mass of the top quark,  $172.6 \pm 1.4$  GeV [1], suggests that it may play an important role in the electroweak symmetry breaking scenario of the Standard Model (SM). In the SM it is predicted that the top quark has a Yukawa coupling to the Higgs boson of order unity. The production of a Higgs boson in association with a top-antitop quark pair allows the study of the top Yukawa coupling which plays a key role in understanding the nature of mass generation. It is interesting to note that if a low mass Higgs boson escapes detection at the Tevatron, this channel is the most important one to study Yukawa couplings at the LHC.

In this analysis we search for such a process with the Higgs boson decaying into a bottom-antibottom quark pair, such that we have a  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  final state. The predicted cross section times branching ratio for the Higgs radiation off top quarks is low so that a discovery of the SM Higgs boson in this channel alone is not feasible at the Tevatron. However, it is interesting to analyse this channel because it will contribute to the combination of the SM Higgs searches at the Tevatron, especially at low Higgs boson masses. Furthermore, for the first time final states with 3 tagged  $b$ -jets and 4 or 5 jets were looked at separately. It is thus interesting to search for any deviations from the SM in those channels. For example, in Supersymmetric Two-Higgs-Doublet Models (2HDM) or in the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) at low  $\tan\beta$  [2] these channels could be enhanced where  $\tan\beta$  is the ratio of the real vacuum expectation values of the two Higgs doublets and  $0 \leq \beta \leq \pi/2$ . Furthermore there could exist anomalous contributions to the top-Yukawa coupling [3]. An enhancement of  $t\bar{t}H$  production could also be given by the SM plus a new  $Q = 2/3$  quark singlet  $T$  [4].

The major background to  $t\bar{t}H$  production is  $t\bar{t}$  production itself with additional light and  $b$ -jet production. Other backgrounds are  $W$ +jets and multijet production, which are also major backgrounds to  $t\bar{t}$  production. To enhance the  $t\bar{t}H$  signal we make use of the fact that  $t\bar{t}H$  events with  $t\bar{t}$  decaying into a lepton and jets is expected to have both a larger number of jets originating from the hadronization of six quarks as opposed to four in the  $t\bar{t}$  decay, and a larger number of  $b$ -tagged jets due to two additional  $b$  quarks from the Higgs decay.

We use the shapes of the  $H_T$  distributions, where  $H_T$  is defined as the scalar sum of the transverse momenta  $p_T$  of the 4 or 5 leading jets, for samples with different numbers of jets, number of  $b$ -tagged jets, and lepton type to distinguish signal and background. We also present an alternative method not using kinematical information but performing a simultaneous fit of the  $t\bar{t}$  and  $t\bar{t}H$  cross sections in the different channels, as described in Appendix A. The sensitivity of the method using kinematical information is  $\approx 10\%$  better.

Limits are extracted using the modified frequentist  $CL_s$  approach with Poisson log-likelihood ratio test implemented as described in [5].

## II. DØ DETECTOR [6]

The DØ detector includes a tracking system, calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer [7]. The tracking system consists of a silicon microstrip tracker (SMT) and a central fiber tracker (CFT), both located inside a 2 T superconducting solenoid. The tracker design provides efficient charged particle measurements in the pseudorapidity [8] region  $|\eta| < 3$ . The SMT strip pitch of 50–80  $\mu\text{m}$  allows a precise reconstruction of the primary interaction vertex (PV) and an accurate determination of the impact parameter of a track relative to the PV [9], which are the key components of the lifetime-based  $b$ -jet tagging algorithms. The calorimeter consists of a central section (CC) covering  $|\eta| < 1.1$ , and two end calorimeters (EC) extending the coverage to  $|\eta| \approx 4.2$ . The muon system surrounds the calorimeter and consists of three layers of tracking detectors and two layers of scintillators [10]. A 1.8 T iron toroidal magnet is located outside the innermost layer of the muon detector. The luminosity is calculated from the rate for  $p\bar{p}$  inelastic collisions detected using plastic scintillator arrays placed in the front of the EC cryostats.

## III. EVENT SELECTION

We seek events in which a Higgs boson is radiated from a top or anti-top quark, with Higgs decaying into  $b\bar{b}$ . Almost every top quark decays into a  $W$  boson and a  $b$  quark. We select the  $t\bar{t}$  decays in which one  $W$  boson decays to two quarks and the other to an electron or muon and a neutrino. Thus the process yields a lepton, missing  $E_T$ , four  $b$ -jets and two light quark jets. We select a data sample enriched in  $t\bar{t}$  events by requiring either a lepton and jets or a single lepton at the trigger level. We further require  $\geq 4$  jets with transverse momentum  $p_T > 20$  GeV and pseudorapidity  $|\eta| < 2.5$ , one isolated electron (muon) with  $p_T > 20$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 1.1$  ( $|\eta| < 2.0$ ), and missing transverse energy  $\cancel{E}_T > 20$  GeV ( $e$ +jets) or  $\cancel{E}_T > 25$  GeV ( $\mu$ +jets). The leading jet  $p_T$  is required to exceed 40 GeV. To improve the signal to background ratio at least one identified  $b$ -jet is required. More details on the event selection in the different channels and the composition of the relevant background can be found in Refs. [11, 12].

The  $t\bar{t}H$  samples were generated using PYTHIA versions v6.319 and v6.409 [13]. The factorization scale was set to  $Q^2 = (m_{top} + m_H/2)^2$  and the CTEQ6L1 PDF was used [14]. To evaluate the dependence of the signal acceptance on the Higgs mass,  $t\bar{t}H$  samples were generated at Higgs masses of 105, 115, 125, 135, 145 and 155 GeV.

The main background to  $t\bar{t}H$  production in high multiplicity  $b$ -tag bins arises from the  $t\bar{t}$  process itself. The samples for  $t\bar{t}$  production used in the analysis were generated using both PYTHIA v6.323 [13] and the ALPGEN 2.11 [15] leading-order event generator for the multi-parton matrix element calculation and PYTHIA for subsequent parton showering and hadronization. The factorization scale was set to  $Q^2 = m_{top}^2 + \sum p_T^2(\text{jets})$  and the top quark mass is taken to be 175 GeV. Since we found differences between the generation of the  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  production between [15] and [13] we assign a conservative 50% systematic uncertainty to this process.

In the channel with  $\geq 5$  jets and  $\geq 3$   $b$ -jets, the contribution due to  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  due to additional gluon radiation with a subsequent  $b\bar{b}$  splitting is approximately 10% relative to the whole amount of  $t\bar{t}$  production [15]. We have checked that  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  production via additional  $Z$  boson radiation with a subsequent  $b\bar{b}$  splitting is smaller than 0.5% relative to the whole amount of  $t\bar{t}$  production. It is thus neglected here. Other backgrounds are due to  $W$ +jets and multijet production.

All events were passed through a full DØ detector simulation and were overlaid with zero-bias data events to simulate additional interactions in the same beam crossing.

#### IV. SEPARATION OF SIGNAL FROM BACKGROUND

We performed studies to compare the event kinematics of  $W$ +jets, multijet and  $t\bar{t}$  background events with the  $t\bar{t}H$  signal in order to find variables with discrimination power between signal and background. For this purpose, samples were generated containing events with at least 4 jets. Figs. 1 and 2 show distributions of  $H_T$ , the number of jets and the number of  $b$ -tagged jets for  $W$ +jets, multijet,  $t\bar{t}$  and  $t\bar{t}H$  simulated events. These variables gave the greatest separation power between signal and background.[21] We define subsamples with 4 or  $\geq 5$  jets, with 1, 2 or  $\geq 3$   $b$ -tags, and for the  $e$ +jets and  $\mu$ +jets final states, and split the  $H_T$  distribution for each of those 12 channels into 8 bins each. Although the  $t\bar{t}H$  contribution is small for events with 1 or 2  $b$ -tags these bins help to constrain the  $t\bar{t}$  background and thus improve the sensitivity by  $\approx 15\%$ .

Fig. 3 shows the  $H_T$  distributions for all channels with 4 or  $\geq 5$  jets and 1, 2 or  $\geq 3$   $b$ -tagging for the full data set of  $2.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . The data are compared to the different sources of background. The contribution of the  $t\bar{t}H$  signal for a Higgs boson mass of 105 GeV is multiplied by 100 and overlaid (solid black histogram).

#### V. EVENT YIELDS AND LIMIT SETTING

The expected and observed numbers of events in the different channels are summarized in Table 1. The yields are shown for a SM Higgs boson of mass 105 GeV. The  $t\bar{t}$  contribution is calculated for a theoretical  $t\bar{t}$  cross section of  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}} = 7.3 \text{ pb}$  [16, 17] for a top quark mass of 172.6 GeV which corresponds to the world average value [1].

In all channels the number of candidate events is consistent with the background expectation within the statistical and systematical uncertainties. This is interesting because we looked at the  $\geq 3$   $b$ -tag channels for the first time separately. As an example, in Fig. 6 we show the display of one of the 5 events found in the channel with  $\geq 5$  jets and  $\geq 3$   $b$ -tags. Since there is no evidence for SM  $t\bar{t}H$  production we set 95% C.L. limits on the production cross section times branching ratio  $\sigma(t\bar{t}H) \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$ . As input for the limit calculation we use the 8 bin  $H_T$  distributions.

To set limits on the SM Higgs boson production cross section, a modified frequentist approach [18] was used, where the signal confidence level  $CL_s$ , defined as the ratio of the confidence level for the signal-plus-background hypothesis to the background-only hypothesis ( $CL_s = CL_{s+b}/CL_b$ ), is calculated by integration of the distributions of a test statistic over the outcomes of pseudo-experiments, generated according to Poisson statistics, for the signal+background and background-only hypotheses. The test statistic is calculated as a joint log-likelihood ratio (LLR) obtained by summing LLR values over the bins of the  $H_T$  distributions. Systematic uncertainties were incorporated via Gaussian smearing of the Poisson probability distributions for signal and backgrounds within the pseudo-experiments. All correlations between signal and backgrounds were maintained. To reduce the impact of systematic uncertainties on the sensitivity of the analysis, the individual signal and background contributions were fitted to the data (and pseudo-data). This was done for both the signal-plus-background and the background-only hypotheses independently by maximizing a

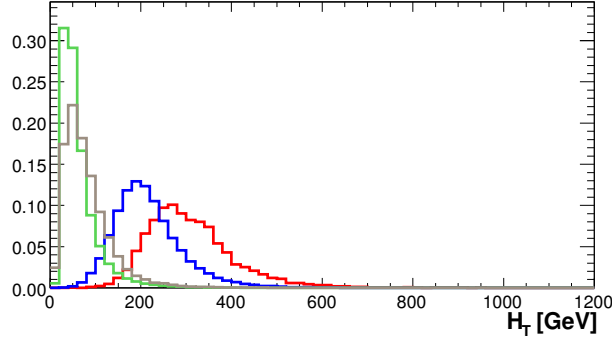


FIG. 1: Normalized distribution of  $H_T$  (applying a  $p_t^{jet} > 15$  GeV cut) for  $t\bar{t}H$  where the Higgs mass was set to 115 GeV (red),  $t\bar{t}$  (blue),  $W$ +jets (green) and multijet (brown) production.  $H_T$  is defined as the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of the 4 leading jets.

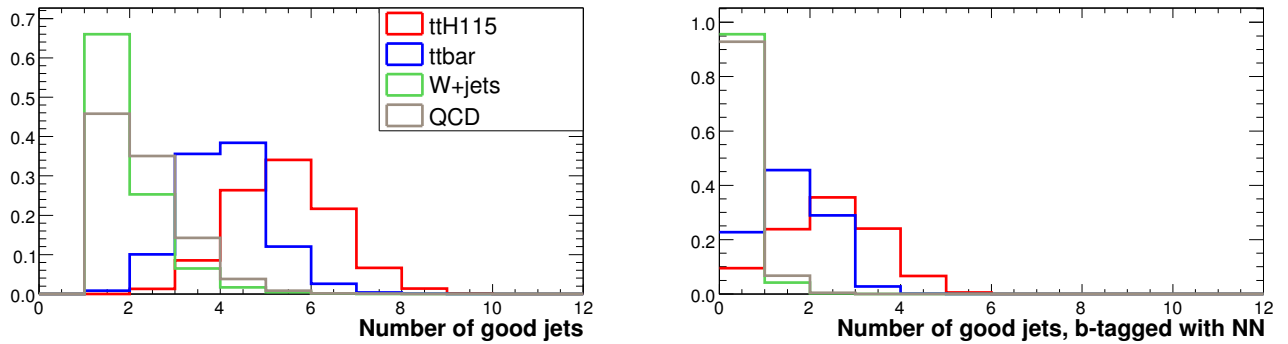


FIG. 2: Normalized distribution of the number of good jets (left) and the number of good jets which have a NN loose  $b$ -tag (right) for  $t\bar{t}H$  where the Higgs mass was set to 115 GeV (red),  $t\bar{t}$  (blue),  $W$ +jets (green) and multijet (brown) production.

profile likelihood function for each hypothesis [5]. The profile likelihood is constructed via a joint Poisson probability over the number of bins in the calculation and is a function of the nuisance parameters in the system and their uncertainties, which are given by an additional Gaussian constraint associated with their prior predictions. Apart from systematics we use the SM  $t\bar{t}$  cross section as a nuisance parameter taking the uncertainty as a Gaussian prior. The maximization of the likelihood function is performed over the nuisance parameters.

As a cross-check we studied the background-only hypothesis and found that the  $t\bar{t}$  cross section fits at 7.8 pb. This is  $0.7\sigma$  higher than the SM prediction of  $7.29 \pm 0.73$  pb used as input. Thus we find an agreement with the SM within the uncertainties.

## VI. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

The main uncertainties that only change event yields, not the  $H_T$  distribution shapes, are due to lepton identification, luminosity,  $b$ -tagging [19] and  $W$ ,  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$  and  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  background models. Another uncertainty on the event preselection is caused by the primary vertex selection and data quality requirements. All of these are summarized in Table 2.

The uncertainties on the jet energy scale and  $b$ -tag probabilities for light,  $c$ , and  $b$ -quark jets are taken as shape dependent uncertainties. We vary these functions, determined from data, by  $\pm$  one standard deviation from their central values to find the modifications to the shape of the  $H_T$  distributions.

## VII. RESULTS

Fig. 4 shows the ratio of the  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H}$  cross section times branching ratio limit over the SM NLO prediction (left plot) and observed and predicted LLR (right plot). The observed limit is in agreement with the expected limit, defined as

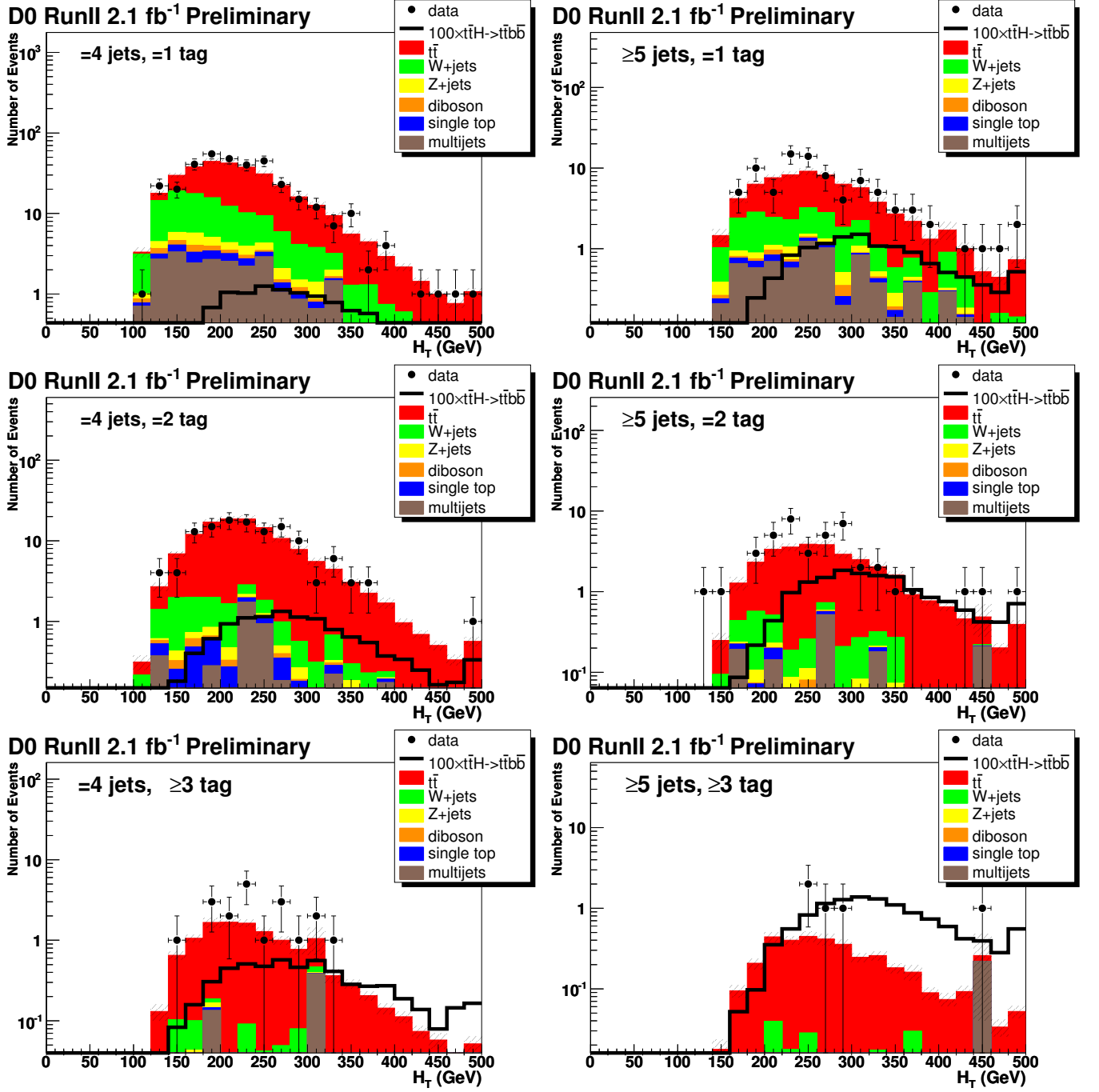


FIG. 3:  $H_T$  distributions corresponding to the  $\ell$ +jets data set of 2.1 fb $^{-1}$  requiring 1  $b$ -tag (top row), 2  $b$ -tags (middle row) and  $\geq 3$   $b$ -tags (bottom row) for events with 4 jets (left column) and  $\geq 5$  jets (right column). The  $t\bar{t}$  cross section is normalized to 7.3 pb corresponding to a top quark mass of 172.6 GeV. The  $t\bar{t}H$  signal is for a Higgs mass of 105 GeV and  $\sigma(t\bar{t}H) \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$  to 5.5 fb. The signal is enhanced by a factor of 100.

the median of the limits obtained in background-only pseudo experiments. For a 115 GeV Higgs mass, the observed and expected limits on the  $t\bar{t}H$  cross section times branching fraction for  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  are 45 and 64 times larger than the SM value, respectively. Table 3 gives the numerical values of the expected and observed limits for different Higgs masses.

	e+jets					
	4j1t	4j2t	4j3t	5j1t	5j2t	5j3t
Signal	0.0675	0.0684	0.0318	0.0765	0.0882	0.0669
$t\bar{t}$	$110 \pm 1$	$60.5 \pm 0.4$	$5.98 \pm 0.12$	$25.5 \pm 0.3$	$15.0 \pm 0.2$	$1.97 \pm 0.07$
non- $t\bar{t}$ Bkg	$67.2 \pm 2.9$	$8.96 \pm 0.97$	$0.35 \pm 0.14$	$12.9 \pm 1.3$	$2.52 \pm 0.62$	$0.31 \pm 0.22$
sum Bkg	$177 \pm 3.0$	$69.5 \pm 1.1$	$6.32 \pm 0.18$	$38.4 \pm 1.4$	$17.6 \pm 0.7$	$2.28 \pm 0.23$
Observed	179	57	10	42	22	3

	$\mu$ +jets					
	4j1t	4j2t	4j3t	5j1t	5j2t	5j3t
Signal	0.0433	0.0462	0.0237	0.0555	0.0684	0.0504
$t\bar{t}$	$91.0 \pm 0.5$	$51.5 \pm 0.4$	$5.04 \pm 0.11$	$20.4 \pm 0.2$	$12.1 \pm 0.2$	$1.47 \pm 0.05$
non- $t\bar{t}$ Bkg	$56.6 \pm 2.5$	$8.5 \pm 1.2$	$0.82 \pm 0.44$	$12.7 \pm 1.3$	$1.84 \pm 0.36$	$0.11 \pm 0.10$
sum Bkg	$148 \pm 2.5$	$60.0 \pm 1.2$	$5.86 \pm 0.45$	$33.2 \pm 1.4$	$14.0 \pm 0.4$	$1.57 \pm 0.11$
Observed	170	68	9	44	20	2

TABLE 1: Summary of expected and observed yields in the various channels from the 4 jet 1  $b$ -tag bin (4j1t) to the  $\geq 5$  jet  $\geq 3$   $b$ -tag bin (5j3t). The background is given for  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}} = 7.3$  pb. The expectations are shown for a Higgs mass of 105 GeV. The uncertainties are statistical only. The uncertainties on the signal are about  $\pm 0.001 - 0.002$

Source	value
Event preselection	1.2%
Muon identification	2%
Electron identification	2.5%
Luminosity	6.1%
$W$ background model	15%
Uncertainty on $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$	10%
Uncertainty on $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$	50%

TABLE 2: Summary of  $H_T$ -independent systematic uncertainties used as input for the limit derivation.

## VIII. SUMMARY

We performed a search for the production cross section of the SM Higgs boson in association with top and antitop quarks in a data set of  $2.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . We analyzed kinematical information using the  $H_T$  distributions in different bins of jets multiplicity and  $b$ -tagged jets multiplicity. The channels with 4 or  $\geq 5$  jets and  $\geq 3$   $b$ -tags were investigated separately for the first time. In all channels within the uncertainties we found agreement between the observed and expected number of events. No hint of associated Higgs production or any other type of physics beyond the SM was found.

We derive upper limits on  $t\bar{t}H$  production. They strongly depend on the mass of the Higgs boson. For low masses around 115 GeV the expected limit for  $\sigma(t\bar{t}H) \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$  is 45 times larger than the SM prediction. The observed limit is a factor of 64 larger than the SM calculation.

Higgs mass (GeV)	expected	observed
105	34.3	48.2
115	45.3	63.9
125	64.2	84.8
135	109	151
145	221	291
155	674	835

TABLE 3: Expected and observed ratios of excluded  $t\bar{t}H$  cross section times  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  branching fraction over SM expectation for different values of the Higgs mass.

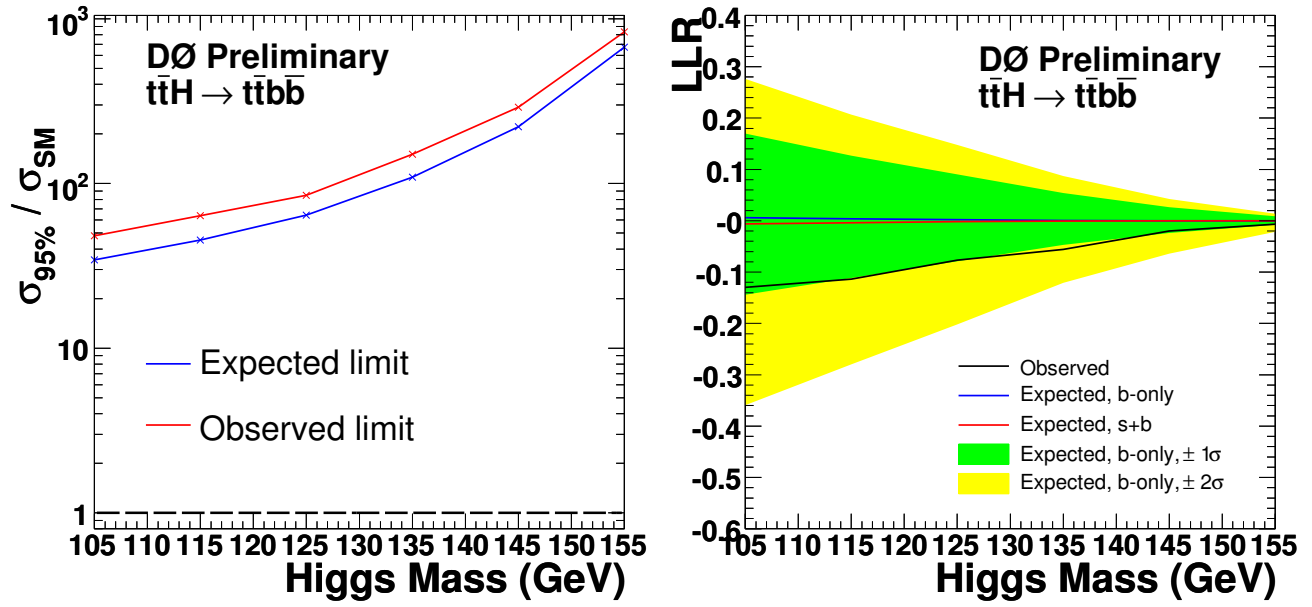


FIG. 4: The 95% CL upper limit on the  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H}$  cross section times branching ratio over the SM expectation in NLO QCD as a function of the Higgs mass (left) and the observed and predicted LLR as a function of the Higgs mass (right).

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  - [8] Rapidity  $y$  and pseudorapidity  $\eta$  are defined as functions of the polar angle  $\theta$  and parameter  $\beta$  as  $y(\theta, \beta) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \ln [(1 + \beta \cos \theta)/(1 - \beta \cos \theta)]$  and  $\eta(\theta) \equiv y(\theta, 1)$ , where  $\beta$  is the ratio of a particle’s momentum to its energy.
  - [9] Impact parameter is defined as the distance of closest approach ( $d_{ca}$ ) of the track to the primary vertex in the plane transverse to the beamline. Impact parameter significance is defined as  $d_{ca}/\sigma_{d_{ca}}$ , where  $\sigma_{d_{ca}}$  is the uncertainty on  $d_{ca}$ .
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## APPENDIX A: SIMULTANEOUS FIT OF $t\bar{t}$ AND $t\bar{t}H$ CROSS SECTIONS

An alternative method where the top quark pair production and the  $t\bar{t}H$  cross section are fitted simultaneously is described in this section. For this method we do not use information of the event kinematics but rely on the difference in jet and  $b$ -tag multiplicity between signal and background. A sub-dataset of  $0.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  is used for this study.

We split the sample into subsamples with electron or muon, three, four or at least five jets, and zero, one, two or at least three  $b$ -tagged jets, resulting in 24 independent data sets. The selection and determination of  $b$ -tagging is the same as for the kinematical analysis described in this note. The determination of the signal and all but the  $W$ +jets background yield is the same as for the kinematical analysis. For the  $W$ +jets background, which is normalized to the data before applying the  $b$ -tagging, the yield depends on the  $t\bar{t}$  and  $t\bar{t}H$  contributions. Therefore the  $W$ +jets yield is re-determined iteratively in each step of the fitting procedure used for the measurement of  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$  and  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H} \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$ .

The determination of  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$  and  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H} \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$  is done with a maximum likelihood fit of the prediction in each subsample to the observed number of events. The likelihood function is defined as the product of Poisson terms for each data set. Additionally Gaussian terms for the systematic uncertainties are multiplied to the likelihood function, with the Gaussian distribution with mean zero and width according to the one sigma value of each source of systematic. With this incorporation of systematic uncertainties the central values of  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$  and  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H} \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$  can change during the fit.

For several Higgs masses we repeat the fitting procedure and remeasure the  $t\bar{t}$  cross section and  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H} \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$ . The top quark pair production cross section is found to be consistent

$$\sigma_{t\bar{t}} = 8.36_{-0.98}^{+1.08} (\text{stat+syst}) \pm 0.51 (\text{lumi}) \text{ pb} . \quad (\text{A1})$$

This result fluctuates only by 0.01 pb when different Higgs masses are used. As no excess of the data from SM prediction can be observed, limits on  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H} \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$  are set.

The limits on  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H} \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$  are extracted according to the Feldman Cousins procedure [20]. For various input values of  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H} \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$  pseudo-experiments including all systematic uncertainties are generated. Following the likelihood ratio ordering Confidence Level bands are built, that can be used to extract the 95% C. L. limits at each Higgs mass. The such extracted limits together with the limits on the SM expectation and the 68% error band around the expected limit, divided by the next-to-leading order  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H} \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$  expectation are shown in Fig. 5.

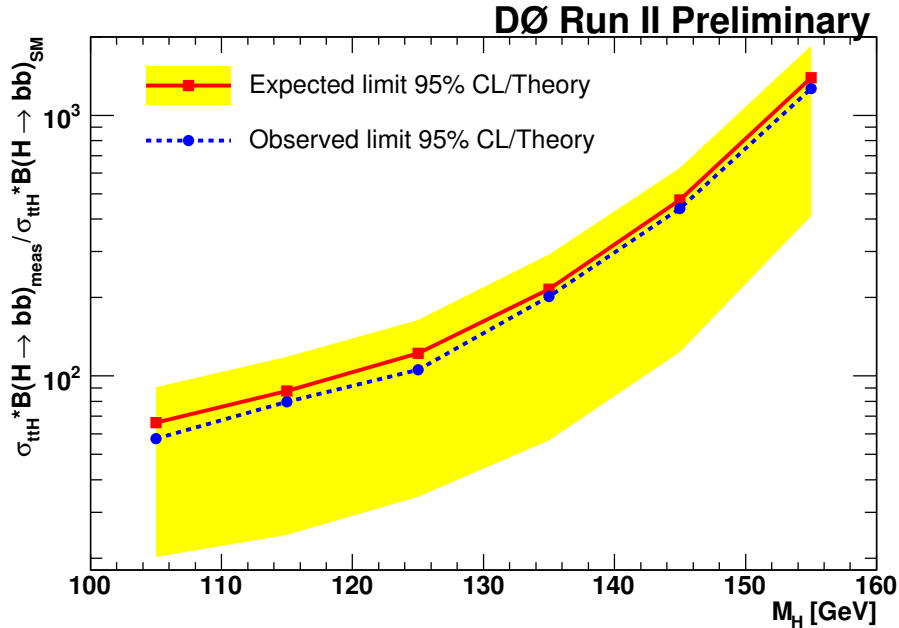


FIG. 5: The 95% CL upper limit on the cross section times branching ratio as a function of the Higgs mass over the SM expectation in NLO QCD for a data set of  $0.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . The red line shows the expected limit, the blue one the observed limit. The yellow band gives the total uncertainty on the expected limit.

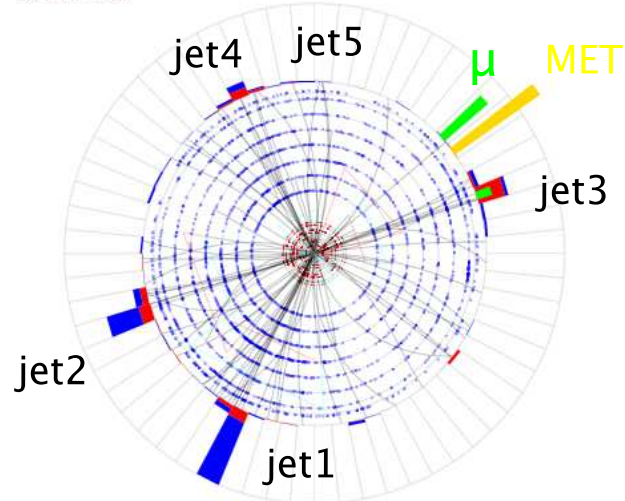
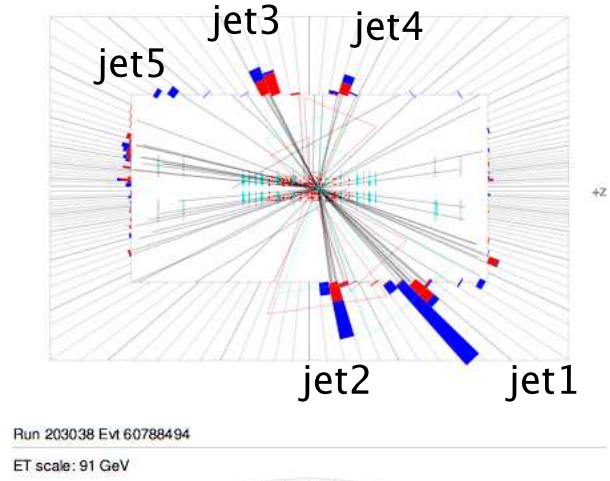
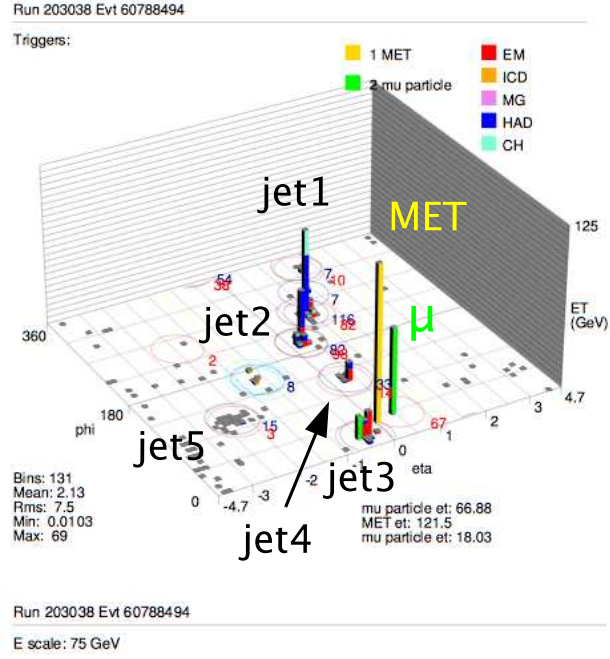


FIG. 6: Example  $\mu$ +jet event with 3  $b$ -tags and 5 jets. Jet1, jet2 and jet3 have a  $b$ -tag. The transverse momenta of the objects in the final state are  $p_T^{\text{jet1}}=156$  GeV,  $p_T^{\text{jet2}}=111$  GeV,  $p_T^{\text{jet3}}=104$  GeV,  $p_T^{\text{jet4}}=49$  GeV,  $p_T^{\text{jet5}}=24$  GeV,  $p_T^\mu=67$  GeV.  $\cancel{E}_T=50$  GeV.  $H_T=444$  GeV.